Eaton Atlas

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-FOREST SERVICE
California Forest and Range Experiment Station
Division of Forest Insect Research

FOREST INSECT CONDITIONS
NEVADA, AMADOR AND CALAVERAS COUNTIES
RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY
November 22-23, 1954

An inspection of forest insect damage within Nevada, Amador and Calaveras Counties was made by the writer on November 22 and 23, 1954. This inspection was made at the request of the California State Division of Forestry and was organized by Daniel Dotta and Herman Meyer of the Division of Forestry. The writer was accompanied throughout the trip by Daniel Dotta. Other persons participating in the inspection, all from the Division of Forestry, were: Nevada County - William Maguire and James Hayes; Amador County - Ed Bailey; Calaveras County - Ed Bailey and John Lockhart. Most of the areas visited had been noted during the annual Statewide aerial survey of forest insect conditions in early October of this year.

NEVADA COUNTY

Three areas in this county were visited on November 22.

1. Osborne Hill Zone of Infestation - This is the area near Grass Valley where control was carried on last spring against the pine engraver beetles, Ips sp. and the western pine beetle, Dendroctonus brevicomis, both in ponderosa pine.

The control project appears to have been very successful. No group losses were noted, and but few current losses could be found. A few infested trees have been cut down and burned by the land owners since the control project was terminated.

Recommendation:

No further control is recommended for this area; however, continued surveillance of the area should be maintained.

2. Succetti Ranch - A five-acre tract of young ponderosa pine on this property was partially cleared with a bulldozer early last summer and the trees left on the ground. A heavy infestation of pine engraver beetles followed. They bred up in the slash from the clearing operation and then spread to the rest of the stand. Several thousand ponderosa pines two to eight inches in diameter were killed.

The infestation built up rapidly and appears to have died down just as rapidly. At present there are few currently infested trees. The owner plans on burning all of the slash and any new fades as they show up.

Recommendation:

Encourage the owner in the burning of the slash and any infested trees that appear.

3. Deer Creek - This is a drainage immediately adjacent to the city limits of Nevada City. Losses to ponderosa pine due to pine engraver beetles and the western pine beetle have occurred here within the past couple of years. The loss is confined for the most part to many scattered groups. Examination of the groups indicates a rapid buildup last year and early this year and then a gradual decline in populations. This buildup may have been caused by logging slash in the vicinity. Slash was noted which had not been lopped and scattered.

Recommendation:

No control necessary at the present time; however, the area should be watched for further insect buildup which may require action. The logging operators in this area should be made aware of the need for proper slash disposal to reduce pine engraver beetle damage.

AMADOR COUNTY

Three areas in this county were examined on November 23:

1. River Pines - Ponderosa pine losses, due to the western pine beetle and to a lesser extent to the pine engraver beetles, have been rather extensive this past year in and about the town of River Pines. Losses are occurring in large groups throughout the area. Many of these groups were checked and found to contain sufficient numbers of currently infested trees to maintain high insect populations within the area, unless control measures are undertaken. The actual number of timbered acres is small - probably in the neighborhood of 300 acres. The stand is second-growth, composed mainly of small diameter trees. The infested trees are located within a populated area, and there are several ownerships involved. No figures are available as to the total number of infested trees; however, it would appear to be a comparatively low number owing to the small acreage involved. If control is undertaken, the first step should be to mark and map the infested trees. This would serve to delineate the area that should be included in setting up a zone of infestation, provide the basis for determining the ownerships involved, and indicate the approximate number of trees needing treatment. Cost estimates could also be arrived at with this information.

Recommendation:

Control should be undertaken before next spring. This should consist of either fell-burn or fell-spray treatment. In the latter method the use of ethylene dibromide and diesel fuel is recommended.

2. Fort Ann Mine - Scattered losses of groups of ponderosa pine are occurring here as a result of improper slash disposal. Pine engraver beetles, which bred up in the slash, have killed the tops of many trees and completely killed some of the smaller trees. These attacks have been followed by western pine beetle attacks which have killed many more trees. The infestation appears to be subsiding.

Recommendation:

No control necessary. Education of the logging operators and owners in the use of proper slash disposal practices is recommended.

3. Pine Grove - Insect-caused losses in second-growth ponderosa pine are occurring approximately two miles east of Pine Grove. These losses are confined for the most part to one extensive group, and are due primarily to recent logging slash in the area. Pine engraver beetles and the western pine beetle are the insects involved. Many currently infested trees were found; however, it is expected that this infestation will subside shortly.

Recommendation:

No control recommended. Encourage operators in the use of proper slash disposal methods.

CALAVERAS COUNTY

A brief reconnaissance of this area failed to expose any signs of significant current insect-caused tree losses. Several trees were killed by insects in the vicinity of Westpoint last spring, but have since been logged.

Berkeley, California
November 26, 1954

G. L. Downing
Entomologist

Attachment/Map